

I join today with Representative JON PORTER, my cochair for the Congressional Tourism and Travel Caucus. What we want to point out is that the greatest strengths of America lie in its land and its people and the best way to know that is to get out and about, or be a tourist.

One doesn't have to go far. They can be in their own community. We will also see many people from other parts of the world coming to the United States this summer. And our issue is to make awareness of this. Reach out. Thank people who are in the tourism industry, whether it is a bus driver or an airplane pilot or a waitress in a restaurant. Celebrate the greatness of America. Look at this building, this town, this great city, the great people that have built the history of this town.

Tourism is everywhere, and tourism is the greatest asset America has to expose.

□ 1015

NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

(Mr. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I stand today with the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) celebrating America, and that's great news. There are a lot of things that challenge us as a country, but there are some great things happening. Mr. FARR and I are cochairmen of the Travel and Tourism Caucus, and we are here today to talk about National Tourism Week.

I represent the great State of Nevada, where we have about 45 million visitors a year to our communities. But more importantly, the tour and travel industry in this country represents number one, two and three in every economy across the United States of America. Seven hundred billion dollars annually is spent on tour and travel, and that's about \$109 billion in tax revenues. That's \$22,000 a second, \$1.3 million a minute, \$80 million an hour, and \$1.9 billion a day is spent on tour and travel in the United States. It is the largest employer in the country, with 7.5 million jobs. International spending is \$108 billion.

I would like to recognize, for all those communities, and all those folks that represent the tour and travel industry how important it is to our economy, but also how important is to the world to share in this great America.

HOUSE WORKS IN STRONG BIPARTISAN FASHION TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF OUR ARMED FORCES

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day today, this House will send our military a strong mes-

sage, that we are going to provide them the equipment and the benefits that they so desperately need and deserve as they continue to fight two different wars in Iraq, and certainly in Afghanistan.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, will help protect our troops on the battlefield by providing \$4 billion for special vehicles, transportation, that is going to be used in these two wars.

At a time when our equipment is being worn out, the legislation also creates a Defense Readiness Production Board that will identify serious readiness issues and will then allow the board to address those issues through funds that are placed in a Strategic Readiness Funds.

In this House, we certainly have differences on how to proceed in Iraq, but we are united in ensuring that our troops are taken care of, both on the battlefield and here at home.

Let's support this bill today.

MARIETTA

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Marietta, Georgia on being named one of the Nation's top best communities. The National Civic League has designated Marietta as an All-American city for its exemplary and innovative work to strengthen the community through citizen participation.

Marietta was recognized for several programs that cut to the heart of the city's commitment to improving the lives of its residents. The Marietta Reads program helps children develop critical literary skills. The M-STAR program helps reduce crime. And the Marietta Revitalization Program helps to create affordable housing and foster safe communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous and well-deserved honor, as the citizens of Marietta have put their hearts and souls into strengthening our community. In fact, Marietta is only the fourth Georgia city to ever achieve this distinction in its 57-year history.

We all know that when our friends and neighbors come together for the common good, something special happens in our cities. Schools improve, the economy is bolstered, and our streets are safer. I am incredibly proud that Marietta is leading the way on these important initiatives. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the city of Marietta, its Mayor, Bill Dunaway, its members of Council, and especially my councilman, Van Pearlberg.

ROTELLA INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud to rise today in honor of the Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School in Waterbury, Connecticut, which recently received the Ronald Simpson Deserved Merit Award. This award, considered the highest recognition for magnet schools in the Nation, is given to only one school a year for its exceptional academic standards and achievements.

The Rotella School is a dynamic learning community of 600 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. Rotella serves urban and suburban students who represent a diverse group of backgrounds from around Waterbury. Its unique, art-based curriculum challenges students to excel, and encourages them to express themselves through arts.

Students who are exposed to the arts have higher test scores, better school attendance and increased self-discipline. Rotella is a testament to the power of arts in education.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to stand here today in recognition of Rotella, its administrators, its students for their contribution to our community. They are truly an inspiration to Waterbury. I also commend Rotella's principal, Gina Calabrese, for outstanding work at Rotella and receiving this distinguished award.

CARSON FARIS, RN

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, we passed a resolution recognizing AmeriCorps Week. While AmeriCorps' particular design provides a tuition reward, true volunteering comes with the expectation of nothing in return.

A woman from my hometown of Ocala, Florida so embodies pure selflessness that I would like to praise her today publicly.

Carson Faris is a registered nurse and a certified occupational health nurse specialist with E-One. However, her caregiving nature does not end there. Nurse Faris mentors addicted women through the rocky path of recovery. Further, in addition to her own 10 pets, she shelters at-risk cats and serves on the board of directors for the Humane Society of Marion County and volunteers at the animal shelter. Also, she serves as an advisory board member for the Marion County unit of the Florida Blood Centers. Oh, and by the way, she is the treasurer of the Florida State Association of Occupational Health Nurses.

Nurse Faris shines as a beacon of true volunteerism.

PRaising EOSINOPHIL AWARENESS WEEK RESOLUTION

(Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)